

something greater than a materialistic society. And therefore, America is going to be a more hopeful place for all. The true strength of America is our people. That's the strength of our country. And I can't tell you how proud I am to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming to help Jim. May God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:11 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to event chairman Patrick G. Ryan, chairman and chief executive officer, Aon Corp.; Marie Ryan, wife of candidate Jim Ryan, and their children, John, Jim, Matt, Patrick, and Amy; former First Lady Barbara Bush; Gov. George H. Ryan of Illinois; State Representative Jim Durkin, candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois; State Senator Carl E. Hawkinson, candidate for Lieutenant Governor; State Senate President James "Pate" Philip; State House Republican Leader Lee A. Daniels; Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago; and foster parents Adrienne and Jerry Welenc.

Proclamation 7560—National Hurricane Awareness Week, 2002

May 13, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Hurricanes can devastate our communities, endangering thousands of human lives and causing billions of dollars in property damage. Stemming from the ocean, the atmosphere, and heat from the sea, hurricanes bring with them the potential for high winds, tornadoes, torrential rains, flooding, and ocean water storm surges. Their fierce and destructive power requires that we all take steps to reduce our vulnerability to this natural hazard.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an average of ten tropical storms develop annually over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. Every year, an average of six of these storms grow strong enough to become hurricanes. Approximately five hurricanes strike the United

States coastline every 3 years. Out of these, two will have winds above 111 miles per hour, qualifying them as major hurricanes. The resulting high winds and high waves can seriously damage homes, businesses, public buildings, and critical infrastructure, and ultimately have the potential to injure people and claim lives.

To help avoid damage and help ensure the public's safety from hurricane hazards, FEMA recommends a variety of preventative steps for both individuals and communities. For example, construction measures can help minimize property destruction. These include installing storm shutters over exposed glass and adding hurricane straps to hold the roof of a structure to its walls and foundation. More complex measures, such as elevating coastal homes and businesses, can further reduce a property's susceptibility. In addition, communities can reduce their vulnerability by adopting wind- and flood-resistant building codes and by implementing sound land-use planning.

More than 50 million people live along hurricane-prone coastlines in the United States, with millions of tourists visiting these areas annually. During National Hurricane Awareness Week, I encourage those who live in coastal areas, as well as all concerned Americans, to be more vigilant in preparing for hurricanes and other natural disasters before they occur. By promoting awareness of hurricane hazards and helping with relief efforts when these powerful storms strike, we can reduce the risks of hurricane damage and help our neighbors recover more quickly from their devastating effects. With preparation, forecasting, and coordination, we can save lives and improve our Nation's ability to withstand the impact of hurricanes.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 19 through May 25, 2002, as National Hurricane Awareness Week. I call on government agencies, private organizations, schools, news media, and residents in hurricane-prone areas to share information about hurricane preparedness and response in order to help prevent storm damage and save lives.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:34 a.m., May 14, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 15.

Remarks on Signing the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002

May 14, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored today to sign a bill that is an important step in an effort to secure our border, while promoting trade and commerce. It's a good piece of legislation. It's bipartisan legislation. And I want to thank the members of both parties who have worked hard to get this bill to my desk.

I want to thank Tom Ridge, who's here. Where are you, Tom? Oh, you're Tom Ridge, yeah. [Laughter] At least that's what some of the Members are saying. I particularly want to thank Senators Kyl and Brownback and Kennedy, Feinstein, and Hatch for being here—fine, fine Members of the United States Senate. I want to thank you for coming. I also want to appreciate Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner and George Gekas as well. These Members worked hard on this legislation. I want to thank the members of my administration who are here.

I also want to say hello to Arlene Howard. Ms. Howard, it's good to see you. A lot of folks might remember—you can stand up. [Applause] Thank you for coming. Arlene gave me her son, George's, badge and—as a reminder of the evil that had been done to our country. You look great. I remember when I went over to Yankee Stadium to throw out the ball there at the World Series, Arlene's—one of Arlene's other sons was there. Where is he? Oh, there he is. Thanks for the advice—aim high. [Laughter]

I want to thank Peter Johnson, who was George's partner for 12 years. Peter, thanks for coming. It's good to see you. I appreciate you being here. Thank you, sir.

I want to welcome you all. I was looking at Arlene and the brave folks here; it reminds me of what was done to us there on September 11th and how important it is that we remain tough and strong and diligent as we seek justice, as we chase down these killers, one by one, and bring them to justice.

And that's a major responsibility of all of ours, and it's a responsibility we take seriously. The country is united in our drive for justice. This Nation is determined, and we're patient, much to the chagrin of the enemy. It must make them really worried to know that we don't have a calendar that says, on such and such a date we're going to quit, that when it comes to our freedoms—defending our freedoms and securing our homeland and protecting our innocent Americans and never forgetting what happened on September the 11th, we are some kind of tough. And that's the way it's going to be.

We've got responsibilities here at home as well, and it starts with our borders. Our borders process an incredibly huge number of people. It may come as a surprise to some of you, but there's—over 500 million people a year enter America, and half of those are our own citizens that may have been traveling. We have 11 million trucks come across our borders. We have 51,000 foreign ships call into our ports. It reminds us that no nation can be totally secure or more secure, unless we're well-protected and unless our borders are well-screened. We must know who's coming into our country and why they're coming. We must know what our visitors are doing and when they leave. That's important for us to know. It's knowledge necessary to make our homeland more secure.

America is not a fortress; no, we never want to be a fortress. We're a free country. We're an open society. And we must always protect the rights of our law—of law-abiding citizens from around the world who come here to conduct business or to study or to spend time with their family. That's what we're known for. We're known for respect.